

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 22

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the Martin Middle School cheerleaders on winning the 2004-2005 Large Junior High/Middle School National Championship.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful school athletic teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors for this State; and

WHEREAS, the Martin Middle School cheerleading program is renowned as a bastion of extraordinary athletic facility and is a squad of competitive stature in the world of secondary sports; and

WHEREAS, the Martin Middle School (MMS) cheerleaders achieved a notable level of success during the 2004 season; and

WHEREAS, competing in the oldest and one of the largest cheerleading competition in the United States, the National Cheerleader Association (NCA) Championship, MMS prevailed over teams from larger schools to secure the national title in the Large Junior High/Middle School division by showcasing true athleticism and the spirit of constructive sportsmanship; and

WHEREAS, the MMS cheerleaders have now won the NCA National Title for two consecutive years; they were also recognized for having the best routine with the Innovative Choreography Award and received the "Build-A-Bear" Grand Champion Award for earning the highest score of all Junior High/Middle Schools competing; and

WHEREAS, this year the NCA Senior and Junior High School National Championship was held in Dallas, Texas on December 28-29, 2004, and was host to over two hundred schools and recreation teams across the country. New divisions were added this year and the scoring process was changed so more teams of every skill level could compete with confidence; and

WHEREAS, in order to qualify for the National Competition, MMS had to receive a bid during a NCA camp in June of 2004; through their efforts at NCA Camp, the MMS Squad was honored by not only receiving such a bid, but also by winning the Top Team Award, the Spirit Award (voted on by all teams at camp), and the Spirit Stick Award; and

WHEREAS, the MMS squad includes twenty-three talented individuals, all of whom are currently in the sixth, seventh, or eighth grade, and twelve of whom are first-year cheerleaders; and

WHEREAS, through the dedication and hard work of sixth graders Caroline Flippin, Rachel Fowler, Molly Griffin, Mercedes Rubio, and Mallory Simpson; seventh graders Melinda Dortch, Kristen Riley, Molly Willis, Kassi Wright, Megan Burcham, Rebekah Payne, Lauren Harrison, Kelsie Clark, Kelsey Breland, and Amy Belote; and eighth graders Kathryn Flippin, Briana Rooks, Laura Gullett, Ashleigh Shell, Jenny Walker, Casey Hazlewood, Bentley Walters, and Alex Butler, the MMS cheerleading squad has achieved commendable success during the past year; and

WHEREAS, Mallory Simpson, Megan Burcham, Casey Hazlewood, and Laura Gullett were all selected to the NCA All-American Team; and

WHEREAS, for twenty-three years, Fran Spears has meritoriously served as Head Coach of the MMS cheerleading squad; in 2004, she was supported by Assistant Coaches Jill Barber and Ginger Cole and Choreographer Brad Habermel. These astute leaders laid the groundwork for the NCA National Championship by sharing with the young women on the team their substantial knowledge of cheerleading and their passion both for the sport of cheerleading and for excellence in every endeavor; and

WHEREAS, participating in numerous competitions, the cheerleaders of MMS garnered first place honors at the TSSAA State Championship in Murfreesboro where they earned a bid to compete in the UCA Nationals, and at the Kentucky Cheer and Dance Competition in Murray, Kentucky; in Murray, they received the Grand Champion award for attaining the highest score of all squads competing; and

WHEREAS, the cheerleaders of MMS for the 2004-2005 season have proven themselves exceptional artists and athletes, and have followed in the winning footsteps of

previous MMS cheerleaders; in the past six years, the members of the MMS cheerleading program have won four National Titles and placed second in the other two National Competitions, establishing a record of excellence matched by few; and

WHEREAS, the cheerleaders at Martin Middle School epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved a premier level of success in competition while showing the highest degree of character in every facet of their daily lives; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young women not only made possible a championship season, but also bode well for their success in every future enterprise; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Martin Middle School cheerleaders for winning the National Cheerleader Association Large Junior High/Middle School National Championship and for serving as examples of the exceptional quality of the youth of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we do hereby honor and congratulate Coaches Fran Spears, Jill Barber, Ginger Cole, Choreographer Brad Habermel, and the Martin Middle School cheerleaders on their individual and collective resolve and their extraordinary victorious performance at the 2004-2005 National Cheerleading Association Championship competition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.